The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

*Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
*Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In this Links: Youth as Agents of Change: This week, the U.N. General Assembly kicked off a high-level meeting devoted to tackling the challenges facing youth around the world and exploring their potential to bring about change in their societies and in the world at large. “We are seeking to promote a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding between young people and with young people as key stakeholders in today's world,” Assembly President Joseph Deiss said as he opened the meeting. The two-day meeting, which has the theme of “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,” is part of a series of events that have marked the International Year of Youth, which comes to a close on International Youth Day on August 12th. As speakers at the U.N. meeting noted, the revolutionary spirit of the past year, including uprisings in various countries around the world, have shown that youth are as creative, committed, and powerful as ever.

Announcements:

**Youth Venture Summit: A Global Community of Young Changemakers**
http://www.youthventuresummit.org/
The annual Youth Venture Summit brings together more than 100 young leaders from all over the world who are interested in creating change, as well as the adult allies and professionals who support youth as agents of change. At the summit, attendees participate in skill-building workshops, engage in meaningful dialogue to share experiences and perspectives, and network with each other to identify common areas of interest and ways to collaborate. The three-day summit will kick off in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 28th.

**FHI Hosts Online Forum on Young People at Risk of HIV**
http://www.iywg.org/youth/forum/young_people_most_at_risk_of_HIV
On behalf of the Interagency Youth Working Group (IYWG), FHI 360 is hosting an online forum called Lives at Stake: Meeting the Needs of Young People Most at Risk of HIV. The forum, running from July 26th through July 28th, focuses on young people within populations most at risk of HIV: men who have sex with men (MSM), people who sell sex, and people who inject drugs. Facilitated by Bruce Dick, Margaret Sheehan (UNICEF), Kent Klindera (amfAR), Anita Krug (Youth R.I.S.E.), and Emma Braithwaite (Nossal Institute for Global Health), the forum will provide participants an opportunity to discuss challenges of and strategies for meeting the needs of most-at-risk young people, and to ask questions about Young People Most at Risk of HIV, a meeting report and discussion paper from the IYWG, USAID, the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on
HIV and Young People, and FHI 360. The paper is available at http://www.iywg.org/sites/default/files/Young_Most_Risk.pdf.

**SID-Washington Gender Group Hosts Panel on Inequity**
http://web.memberclicks.com/mc/community/eventdetails.do?eventId=321827&orgId=wdcsid&recurringId=0

A panel on Cross-Sector Approaches in Education: Enhancing Youth Development and Reducing Gender Inequity in Guatemala and Jamaica, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28th, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. The SID-Washington Gender in Development Workgroup and Juarez & Associates (J&A) will be hosting the presentation, which will feature top-level representatives from two basic education projects being implemented by J&A: USAID/Guatemala Education Reform in the Classroom (REAULA) and the USAID/Jamaica Basic Education Project (JBEP).

**Obama Administration Addresses International Youth Issues in Video**

In a video broadcast on Facebook and whitehouse.gov, Obama administration official Kalpen Modi moderates a discussion with USAID Administrator Raj Shah about how young people can take the lead alleviating poverty and improving the health and well-being of people around the world. The video also describes the Obama administration’s approach to global youth development. The discussion was attended by young people from around the world, and panelists took questions from online participants.

**9th Annual U.N. Youth Assembly Upcoming**

The 9th Annual Youth Assembly will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City from August 1st to 9th, 2011. Themes of the conference are social entrepreneurship and social leadership. The conference, meant for young leaders ages 18 to 26, is organized by the International Youth Council and the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation. The goals of this event include: promoting increased youth participation in U.N. programs; connecting youth with opportunities, mentors, colleagues, and new associates; and recognizing the artistic and diplomatic efforts of young people already involved in development and humanitarian initiatives.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**Youth for Change**
http://yfc.tigweb.org/

Youth for Change is a youth-led program supported by TakingITGlobal and Bibliotheca Alexandrina that aims to inspire, inform and involve Arab youth as agents of change in their communities. Youth for Change works with local organizations in all 22 Arab countries to ensure the success and support of the region’s youth, and to build their skills to take more action in their own communities. Youth for Change provides support in the form of grants for youth-led organizations, scholarships, online courses, knowledge-sharing events, and other initiatives.

**Youth Action for Change**
http://www.youthactionforchange.org
Youth Action for Change (YAC) is an international youth-run nonprofit organization that equips young people with knowledge and skills that enable them to get directly involved in improving their communities. YAC’s work included training and support for youth so that they are empowered to instigate positive community development projects and train their peers on vital development issues. YAC implements its work through two key streams: (1) free online courses and (2) grassroots youth empowerment projects. Some initiatives launched by YAC are Forgotten Diaries, an online collection of reporting by young people in conflict zones, a scholarship fund for Indian youth, and Young Innovations Europe, a youth-focused magazine.

Youth Producing Change

The Youth Producing Change project compiles work by young filmmakers around the world to create a film each year highlighting human rights issues faced by youth and their communities (the filmmakers are all under the age of 19). The program is supported by Human Rights Watch and Adobe Youth Voices, the Adobe Foundation’s global philanthropic initiative that empowers youth from underserved communities to comment on their world using multimedia and digital tools. The finished films are presented at film festivals or other international venues.

Youth Creating Change — Ghana
http://www.yccghana.org/

Youth Creating Change of Ghana (YCC) is dedicating to improving the lives of young people and encouraging youth participation in knowledge sharing, leadership roles, volunteering and community development projects and programs. YCC is currently operating in 10 communities in Ghana, West Africa. YCC has worked to support hygiene programs in rural and urban areas; community education initiatives; job-creation and training opportunities; counseling services; and tourism, exchange and volunteering programs.

Resources for Practitioners:

How Youth Drive Change (2011)

This issue of the UNESCO Courier looks back at the International Year of Youth and the youth-led events that transpired, in Tunisia and then in Egypt, and the expansion to other countries in the region, later involving communities as far as Western Europe. Throughout the world, youth are mobilizing for a range of causes. The Courier takes the close of the year as an opportunity to assess the role of young people as agents of change in their communities, and the technologies and tactics they employ to do so.

Iran’s Youth: Agents of Change (2010)
http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%2051%20Iran%27s%20Youth%20Agents%20of%20Change.pdf

This publication is part of the United States Institute of Peace’s Peace Brief series. It highlights how Iran’s youth are one of the two main agents of change, along with women, now challenging the rigid Islamic rule. The document identifies four key issues that are particularly pressing for Iranian youth: unemployment, independence, sexual interaction, and drug use. It also provides background on youth involvement in political developments in Iran. The brief is co-sponsored by USIP’s Jennings Randolph
Fellowship Program and the Youth and Peacebuilding Working Group in USIP’s Centers of Innovation.

**Startup and Change the World (2007)**
This Youth Social Enterprise Initiative publication is a guide for young people planning to start a social enterprise. The guide broadly outlines the common strategies, tactics and elements involved in planning a social venture and getting off the ground. In addition, the organization has endeavored to bring clarity to the concept of social entrepreneurship and identify various resources that might be useful for young entrepreneurs.

**Web 2.0 for Social Change (2008)**
This document is a facilitators’ guide aimed at empowering young people to enact change through the use of digital media tools. The guide is a product of TakingITGlobal.org, an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities. It includes technical information about specific social media tools, such as blogging, RSS feeds, wikis, photos and videos, podcasting, and other technologies. There is also information on conducting a digital media workshop, and additional resources including a glossary of important terms.

Looking for YOUR input: We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserv. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To unsubscribe from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only “unsubscribe youthcop” in the body of the e-mail. (No signatures please).

Mission of YCoP: The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov. Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.